

Black and Dr. Ogilvie have two of the finest voices I have ever heard and each time I hear them say something I become so envious that I have my voice and they have theirs.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

Mr. FRIST. Madam President, the Democratic leader is exactly right. That was our first comment. What is even more embarrassing is when you are side by side with either Lloyd Ogilvie or Chaplain Black and you have to sing, because their voices are so powerful, which does mean so much to us in terms of expressing feelings, emotion, and values. When it is applied to the beautiful voice of singing, it is especially embarrassing to me as they are next to me because the contrast is so dramatic.

It is a great pleasure for all of us to welcome Lloyd Ogilvie back with us this morning to open today with a prayer that struck at what we have seen the last couple of days, but also the real responsibility and obligations we have as Members of the Senate. We have been blessed with chaplains such as Chaplain Black and Chaplain Ogilvie to serve us and the American people so selflessly and unselfishly during our tenure.

TSUNAMI: LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS

Mr. FRIST. Madam President, I will comment on Judge Alberto Gonzales and his confirmation. Over the period for morning business, others will be coming by and speaking on the confirmation, although we do not officially begin until 10:45. Before doing that, I want to mention that tomorrow I will have the opportunity to testify before the Senate Commerce Committee. I was invited by Chairman STEVENS to speak on the long-term public health needs of the victims following the December 26 tsunami.

Early in January, Senator Mary Landrieu and I had the opportunity fairly early on in the recovery period to go to Sri Lanka where the observations were stark in many ways but in many ways inspiring, as we flew over the coastline in Sri Lanka and witnessed the unending devastation. We also saw on the ground the great outpouring of support, caring, and compassion, the best of humanity internationally but very specifically by Americans on the ground.

We all know from the tsunami we have the 5 million people who lost their homes and 150,000 people who lost their lives. The scars will be there for a long period of time. Senator STEVENS will have a hearing tomorrow to look at some appropriate initial responses in terms of prevention of that sort of catastrophe in the future. Tomorrow, I will be talking about a broad picture looking at public health issues such as cleaning of water and sanitation, and the role curing disease and public health can play as an expression of compassion and caring but also as a

wonderful currency of peace in its manifestation.

I will also be introducing legislation shortly addressing this whole challenge of water and the global issues surrounding water, the fact that 1.2 billion people in the world today do not have a clean glass of water. Unfortunately, these waterborne illnesses are the No. 1 killer of children in the world today because 1.2 billion people do not have access to that water.

We will be introducing legislation to address the global water supply, quality and quantity, that will address some of the basic issues, humanitarian in part but public health in large part as well. We can do a lot through our foreign assistance, where we have misdirected our foreign assistance or we have not even focused on water, which I believe it deserves. I will also mention the importance of having a global health corps that can respond to disaster in a way that we saw so many wonderful volunteers coming from around the world to respond to this tsunami. In the aftermath of a terrible tragedy such as this, medicine heals not only the body but also the hearts and minds. As the tsunami tragedy underscores so powerfully, medicine can act as a currency of peace.

NOMINATION OF ALBERTO GONZALES

Mr. FRIST. Madam President, today the debate and discussion throughout will be on the nomination of Judge Alberto Gonzales to be Attorney General, and I am proud to be the first of many today to speak on this nomination and the strong support I have for this nominee. Judge Gonzales is a man of keen intellect, a man of high standing and achievement, and unwavering respect for the law. As our first Hispanic-American Attorney General, Judge Gonzales will stand as an inspiration to all Americans. He captures it in his life story. He is an outstanding choice to become our Nation's top law enforcement officer.

He has lived the American dream. We talk so much about the American dream. We point to people, parts of whose lives manifest the American dream. He lived it growing up in the town of Humble, TX, in a two-bedroom house shared by seven siblings and his mother and father. His parents, Pablo and Maria, were Mexican-American immigrants. They have little formal education. His dad completed second grade and that was it.

Inspired by his parents—as he tells it, their hard work—and spurred on by their encouragement, Judge Gonzales set his aspirations high and he was on the way. He has fulfilled them at every level. He played football and baseball in high school. On graduation, he joined the Air Force, from there enrolled in the Air Force Academy, and later transferred to Rice University. He became the first person in his family to go to college.

He didn't stop there. He was accepted at Harvard Law School, and with his Harvard law degree in hand he returned to Texas to join one of Houston's most respected law firms, and he was their first minority partner. At the firm, Judge Gonzales committed himself to the education of minority kids. He even helped create minority scholarships which to this day are awarded to those in need.

It didn't take long for people to recognize the tremendous talents of Judge Gonzales. He answered the call to public service. Newly elected Governor George Bush tapped Alberto Gonzales to join his administration as general counsel. He went on to become Texas's 100th secretary of state and then later a justice of the Texas Supreme Court.

Every step of the way he has worked hard. He has won the respect of his peers. His integrity and talent have allowed him to receive numerous awards. Those sterling qualities have also garnered the trust and loyalty of the President of the United States. As counsel to the President for the last 4 years, he has been one of the President's closest advisers. President Bush credits Judge Gonzales for his candor and for his ability to remain steady in times of crisis—qualities that are essential in an Attorney General. As we all know, it has been noted that when President John F. Kennedy nominated his brother Robert to lead the Justice Department, the relationship worked so well because the President could count on his unflinching candor in times of crisis.

The biography of Judge Gonzales speaks for itself. I do think it is important to, up front, address some of the criticisms that have been leveled against him. More than a few facts have been lost in the debate. These issues will be talked about, I know, over the course of the morning.

First, President Bush does not have nor has his administration ever had an official Government policy condoning or authorizing torture or prisoner abuse. Let me restate for the record what the policy has been and continues to be from a Presidential memo dated February 7, 2002:

Our values as a Nation, values that we share with many nations in the world, call for us to treat detainees humanely, including those who are not legally entitled to such treatment. . . . As a matter of policy, the United States Armed Forces shall continue to treat detainees humanely and, to the extent appropriate and consistent with military necessity, in a manner consistent with the principles of the Geneva Conventions [governing the laws of war.]

Second, neither Judge Gonzales nor the President have condoned nor advocated nor authorized the torture of prisoners. In fact, on numerous occasions both have explicitly condemned torture as an abhorrent interrogation technique.

Third, Judge Gonzales was not the author but he was the recipient of

memos focusing on methods of interrogation of captured terrorists. The research memos that have been the focus of so much attention and criticism were written, not by the judge, but by the Office of Legal Counsel of the Department of Justice to Judge Gonzales as White House counsel. Those memos explored the legal interpretation of Federal law. They did not set administration policy. Indeed, the Department of Justice has since categorically withdrawn this legal analysis that has been interpreted by some as authorizing torture of terrorist detainees, stating unequivocally:

Torture is abhorrent both to American law and to international norms.

Unfortunately, these facts have not gotten in the way of a barrage of attacks on Judge Gonzales. I am disappointed but not discouraged. I am confident Judge Gonzales will be confirmed with bipartisan support. I am confident that as Attorney General, Judge Gonzales will continue to build on the successes of the last 4 years that we have seen in reducing crime and fighting corporate fraud and upholding our civil rights laws.

The judge has worked hard over the past 4 years to help America defend herself from terrorist attack while respecting our constitutional principles. In these uncertain times, we are fortunate to have a man with such high regard for the law serving our country and protecting our interests.

In closing, former Clinton Cabinet member Henry Cisneros just this month praised Judge Gonzales as "better qualified than many recent Attorneys General," and one who can rely on memories of humble beginnings, using his words, "to understand the realities many Americans still confront in their lives."

Mr. Cisneros's sentiments are widely shared. Judge Gonzales is highly qualified to be America's next Attorney General. He will make America safer, more secure. He will lead the pursuit of justice. I urge my colleagues to offer their full support to the first Hispanic-American Attorney General, Alberto Gonzales, the man from Humble.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business until 10:45 a.m., with the first half of the time under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee and the second half of the time under the control of the majority leader or his designee.

The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the entire 1

hour, 60 minutes, that had been allocated for morning business still be allocated, equally divided between the Republican and Democratic sides.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. FRIST. Just reserving the right to object, I don't believe we will be using all our time in morning business. I would like to get to Judge Gonzales formally—we said at 10:45, at which time the chairman and ranking member are going to come. I think we will be yielding back some of our morning business time. If we can still shoot for 10:45, I think that will give your side an adequate 30 minutes in morning business.

Mr. DURBIN. I don't want to presume, but if we could have 30 minutes as originally allocated, that would be consistent with my request.

Mr. FRIST. Madam President, we had not originally said 30 minutes either side, but if you need 30 minutes this morning in morning business, that will be fine. We would like to start at 10:45, if possible, if that will give you adequate time.

Mr. DURBIN. If I could revise the request that the first 30 minutes of morning business be allocated to the Democratic side and the remaining time until 10:45 be allocated to the Republican side?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. Thank you, Madam President.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Washington is recognized.

GUARD AND RESERVE ENHANCEMENT BENEFITS ACT

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, this past weekend we witnessed a very important step forward in Iraq, as citizens around the country turned out to vote for a new National Assembly. Many Iraqis appear to have embraced the election and I, as so many others, was encouraged to see millions of them exercise their right to vote. But this past weekend's vote also really pushes to the forefront an important question back here, right here at home, about what we are doing to take care of the thousands of American soldiers who are serving us so honorably in this still very dangerous country.

Just before the elections, several news outlets reported that the Army had decided to keep our troops at their current level in Iraq for at least another 2 years. I have one of those stories here from the Tuesday, January 25, edition of the Washington Post. It is headlined, "Army plans to keep Iraq troop level through '06."

I want to read a portion of that story. It says:

With the Pentagon having relied heavily on reservists to fill out deployments to Iraq, military officers have warned recently that the pool of available part-time soldiers is

dwindling. By later this year, when the Army is scheduled to begin its fourth rotation of troops since the invasion in March 2003, all 15 of the National Guard's most readily deployable brigades will have been mobilized.

Although other Guard troops remain and could be tapped for Iraq duty, they belong to units that historically have not received the same priority in equipping and training as the brigades chosen to go in the rotations so far.

"It doesn't mean that the cupboard is bare," Lovelace said. "It just becomes a challenge then for the National Guard."

As the Army reaches farther down in the reserve force, Lovelace said, the amount of "pre-mobilization" time necessary to get the troops ready to send to Iraq is likely to increase.

"We're not going to send anybody into combat who is not trained and ready" the three-star general said. But he noted that already in each rotation, the amount of pre-mobilization time required has increased.

To continue to be able to draw on the better trained reservists, Army officials have said they are considering petitioning Rumsfeld to extend the 24-month limit on the total time a reservist could be called to active duty.

Madam President, I ask that the full text of the story be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Washington Post, Jan. 25, 2005]
ARMY PLANS TO KEEP IRAQ TROOP LEVEL THROUGH '06—YEAR-LONG ACTIVE-DUTY STINTS LIKELY TO CONTINUE

(By Bradley Graham)

The U.S. Army expects to keep its troop strength in Iraq at the current level of about 120,000 for at least two more years, according to the Army's top operations officer.

While allowing for the possibility that the levels could decrease or increase depending on security conditions and other factors, Lt. Gen. James J. Lovelace Jr. told reporters yesterday that the assumption of little change through 2006 represents "the most probable case."

Recent disclosures that the Pentagon plans to beef up training of Iraqi security forces and press them into action more quickly has fueled speculation that the Bush administration could be preparing to reduce the number of U.S. troops significantly this year. As more Iraqi troops join the fight, the thinking goes, U.S. troops could begin to withdraw.

But Lovelace's remarks indicated that the Army is not yet counting on any such reduction. Indeed, the general said, the Army expects to continue rotating active-duty units in and out of Iraq in year-long deployments and is looking for ways to dip even deeper into reserve forces—even as leaders of the reserves have warned that the Pentagon could be running out of such units.

"We're making the assumption that the level of effort is going to continue," Lovelace said.

In a related development, Senate and House aides said yesterday that the White House will announce today plans to request an additional \$80 billion to finance the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. That would come on top of \$25 billion already appropriated for the fiscal year that began Oct. 1. White House budget spokesman Chad Kolton declined to comment.

White House budget director Joshua B. Bolten is to describe the package to lawmakers today, but the budget request will come later, the aides said. Administration